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BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

LABOR MARKET DIGEST

February 1991

The Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity

Mass Layoffs Reach New High In Fourth Quarter 1990

The fourth quarter of 1990 saw a record number of Maine firms undergoing mass layoffs. More layoffs were recorded in the months of October, November and December 1990 than during any other quarter since the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) Program was initiated in Maine in April 1986. MLS is a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics federal/state cooperative program.

Seventy-one firms in Maine laid off 7,491 workers during the fourth quarter. For purposes of the MLS Program, a mass layoff is the separation of 20 or more of a company's employees for a period exceeding 30 days. A firm is triggered as having a potential mass layoff event when 20 or more initial claims for unemployment insurance are filed in a three-week period naming the company as the most recent employer. When a firm is triggered, the company is contacted to determine the actual number of persons separated, the week(s) of the layoff, whether or not the layoff is permanent, (i.e., more than 30 days), the reason for the layoff, and whether the firm is remaining open.

A review of the table on page two shows that of the 154 layoff events in Maine during 1990, 46 percent occurred in the last quarter of the year. Of the 16,645 persons separated, 45 percent were separated in the last quarter.

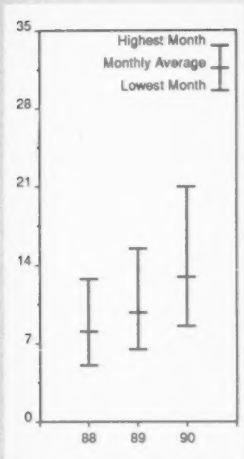
More than half of the workers separated from their jobs in the fourth quarter worked in the construction industry. During this period, several out-of-state construction companies completed projects at paper company locations within the State of Maine. While 3,873 workers were separated, only 2,596, or two-thirds of the workers, filed initial claims. Typically, many construction workers move to new jobs upon completion of a project. However, in light of the sluggish economy, it is not clear to what extent workers not filing an initial claim found new jobs as opposed to delaying the filing of an initial claim. For all industries, 84 percent of persons separated in mass layoff events filed claims for unemployment insurance.

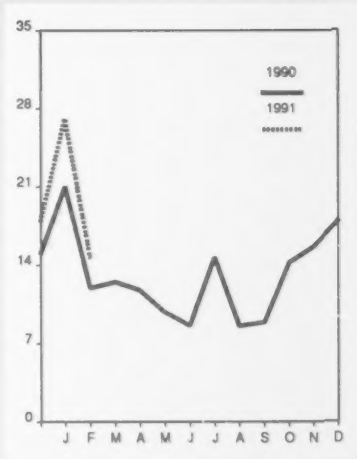
Another industry segment which experienced substantial layoff activity was retail trade. The reason given for these layoffs was seasonal as workers were separated after the December holiday shopping season. Because these separations occurred in the last weeks of the quarter, only 359 of the 1,161 workers separated filed initial claims for unemployment insurance during the quarter. The first weeks of 1991 recorded substantial initial claims from retail trade workers.

Finally, the fourth quarter recorded the closing of seven companies which employed 20 or more employees. These closings cost the jobs of 1,449 workers. For all of 1990 there were 18 companies which closed their doors, resulting in the loss of 3,102 jobs.

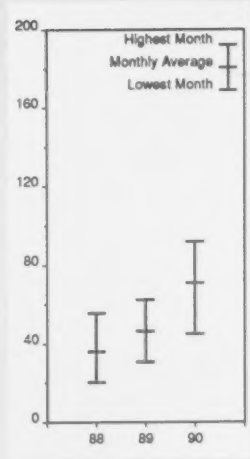
by Richard N. Jones
MLS Program Manager

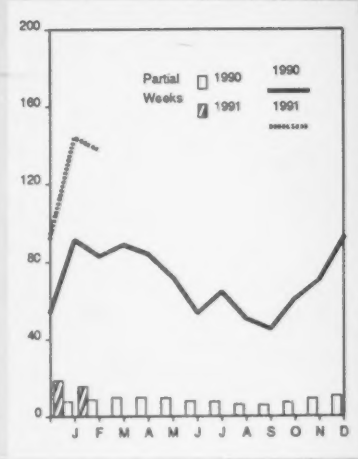
UI Initial Claims
In Thousands





UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed
In Thousands





Layoffs and Workers Separated by Industry for Firms With 20 or More Employees Maine, 1990

Industry	Total		4th Quarter	
	Layoff Events	Workers Separated	Layoff Events	Workers Separated
Goods producing				
Construction	40	6,871	25	3,873
Food and Kindred Products	10	867	4	358
Textiles	7	300	7	300
Apparel	5	194	2	102
Leather and Leather Products	15	905	7	357
Other Manufacturing Nondurable Goods	7	665	4	296
Lumber and Wood Products/Furniture and Fixtures	16	686	4	222
Primary and Fabricated Metals/Machinery and Equipment	6	217	3	166
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	10	713	3	124
Other Manufacturing Durable Goods	*	*	*	*
Service Producing				
Motor Freight Transportation	*	*	*	*
Wholesale and Retail Trade	11	2,694	3	1,161
Services	15	1,474	3	133
Government	3	289	2	206
Miscellaneous	4	214	0	0
Total	154	16,645	71	7,491

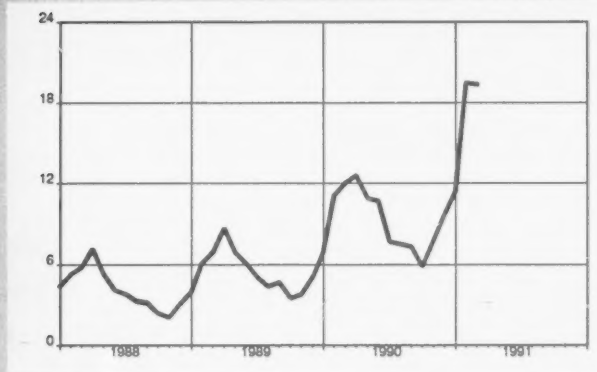
*Nondisclosable

Selected Employment Security Activities

Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments

In Millions

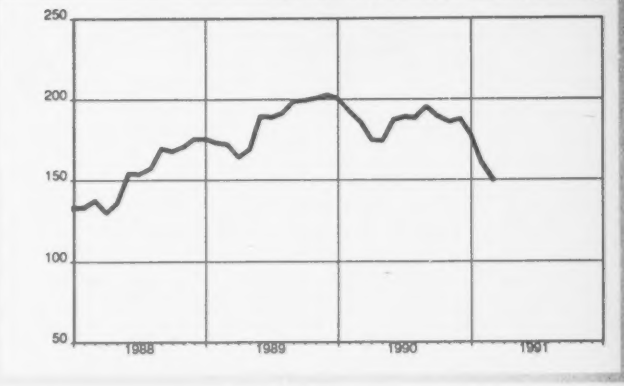
(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance

In Millions

(End of Month)



Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS 1988	1989	1990
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	$434.32	$434.32	$418.31	39.7	39.7	40.3	$10.94	$10.94	$10.38	$9.31	$9.89	$10.58
Durable Goods	424.27	425.41	414.12	40.6	40.4	40.6	10.45	10.53	10.20	9.00	9.59	10.20
Lumber and Wood Products	371.84	361.01	377.98	41.5	41.4	41.4	8.96	8.72	9.13	8.60	8.85	9.10
Primary and Fabricated Metals	411.93	404.56	410.55	41.4	40.7	42.9	9.95	9.94	9.57	8.79	9.31	9.98
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	535.14	484.88	499.39	44.3	41.8	43.2	12.08	11.60	11.56	9.49	11.03	11.63
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	372.38	380.76	353.28	37.5	38.0	36.8	9.93	10.02	9.60	8.51	9.02	9.69
Transportation Equipment	488.03	512.08	486.71	40.3	40.1	40.9	12.11	12.77	11.90	9.82	10.80	11.68
Other Durable Goods	343.80	348.53	318.68	40.4	41.1	40.7	8.51	8.48	7.83	7.43	7.80	8.11
Nondurable Goods	443.07	442.96	420.55	38.9	39.2	39.9	11.39	11.30	10.54	9.60	10.16	10.93
Food and Kindred Products	308.24	307.43	294.88	35.8	35.5	35.4	8.61	8.66	8.33	7.30	8.01	8.56
Textile Mill Products	358.85	344.08	334.96	41.2	39.1	39.5	8.71	8.80	8.48	7.66	8.22	8.82
Apparel and Other Textile Products	246.06	242.09	261.73	33.8	33.3	36.1	7.28	7.27	7.25	6.43	7.04	7.38
Paper and Allied Products	670.96	665.99	664.89	42.9	43.5	45.2	15.64	15.31	14.71	13.93	14.51	15.16
Leather and Leather Products	282.49	291.27	265.68	35.4	36.5	36.9	7.98	7.98	7.20	6.59	6.92	7.44
Other Nondurable Goods	356.36	373.98	365.27	36.7	37.7	38.9	9.71	9.92	9.39	8.62	9.10	9.62
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	381.98	395.49	399.85	36.8	37.1	38.3	10.38	10.66	10.44	9.58	10.53	10.63
LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA												
Manufacturing	350.06	355.70	356.07	37.6	37.6	39.0	9.31	9.46	9.13	8.08	8.50	9.26

Female Labor Force in Maine

In Thousands

ITEM[1/]	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Labor Force	301.4	298.2	280.3
Unemployment	18.8	23.1	9.7
(Percent)	6.2%	7.8%	3.5%
Resident Employed	282.6	275.1	270.6

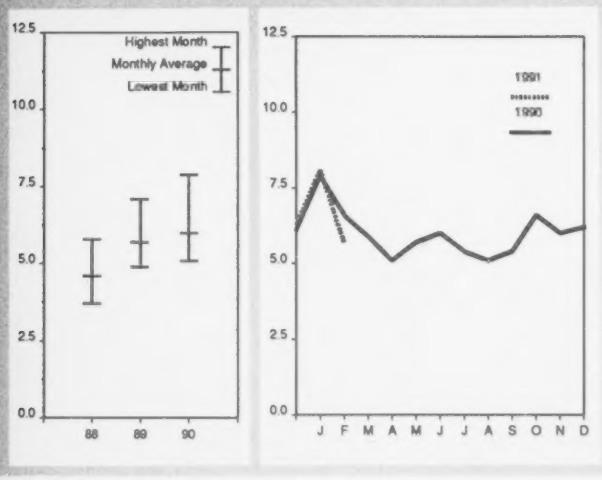
U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD (1982-1984 = 100) All Items (CPI-U)	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
	134.8	134.6	128.0	133.8

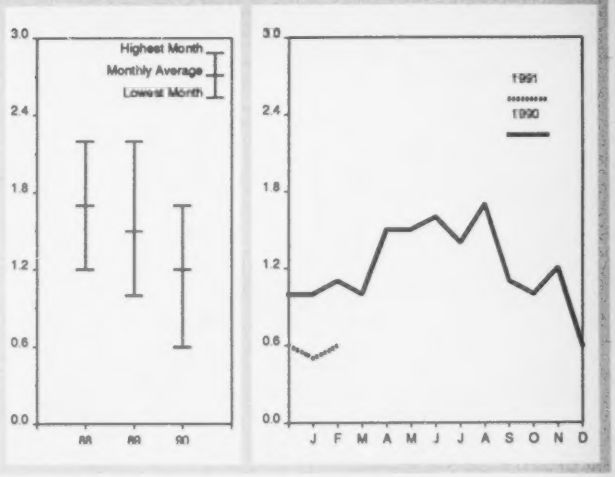
Percent Change for Past Month	+0.1%
Percent Change from Last December	+0.7%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+5.3%

1/ Current figures preliminary; last month and year ago figures revised.
Source: Female labor force estimates are developed by, and solely the responsibility of, the Maine Bureau of Employment Security.

New Applications For Work
In Thousands



Nonfarm Placements
In Thousands
(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work (In Thousands)

ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment 1/	509.0	516.5	522.7	123.6	125.1	128.2	38.0	38.5	39.4
Goods Producing	118.2	121.9	128.2	21.0	21.0	23.8	9.5	9.8	10.7
Construction and Mining	21.8	23.8	25.9	4.8	5.0	6.6	1.6	1.7	1.8
Building Construction	7.1	7.9	9.4	1.3	1.4	2.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Special Trade Contractors	11.7	12.9	13.2	3.3	3.4	4.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manufacturing	96.4	98.1	102.3	16.2	16.0	17.2	7.9	8.1	8.9
Durable Goods	44.7	45.6	48.0	7.6	7.3	8.5	2.1	2.1	2.3
Lumber and Wood Products	10.7	11.0	11.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Primary and Fabricated Metals	3.3	3.4	3.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Industrial Machinery and Equipment	4.6	4.6	4.9	1.7	1.7	2.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Electronic and Other Electric Equipment	7.4	7.5	8.3	2.6	2.7	2.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transportation Equipment	14.6	14.9	15.4	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Durable Goods 2/	4.1	4.2	4.6	3.3	2.9	3.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nondurable Goods	51.7	52.5	54.3	8.6	8.7	8.7	5.8	6.0	6.6
Food and Kindred Products	6.5	6.5	6.9	2.2	2.2	2.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Textile Mill Products	5.1	5.5	5.5	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Apparel and Other Textile Products	2.8	2.9	2.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paper and Allied Products	17.5	17.5	17.2	(d)	(d)	(d)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Printing and Publishing	5.6	5.7	5.9	1.5	1.6	1.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rubber and Miscellaneous Plastic Products	3.4	3.4	3.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.1	1.2	1.8
Leather and Leather Products	9.7	9.9	11.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.7
Footwear (except Rubber)	8.1	8.3	9.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Nondurable Goods 3/	1.1	1.1	1.1	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.1
Service Producing	390.8	394.6	394.5	102.6	104.1	104.4	28.5	28.7	28.7
Transportation and Public Utilities	21.2	21.5	21.7	6.6	6.6	6.1	1.3	1.3	1.3
Wholesale Trade	23.7	24.3	25.1	9.0	9.3	9.7	2.1	2.1	2.2
Retail Trade	98.2	102.9	102.5	26.9	28.6	27.6	7.8	8.0	7.8
Food Stores	18.6	19.3	18.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eating and Drinking Places	28.2	29.2	29.8	7.9	7.9	7.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	24.8	24.9	25.0	12.4	12.3	12.0	2.2	2.3	2.3
Banking	10.0	10.1	10.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Insurance Carriers, Brokers and Agents	10.8	10.8	10.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Services	126.1	125.7	122.8	31.6	31.7	33.0	10.8	10.6	10.7
Hotels and Other Lodging Places	6.5	6.6	6.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Business Services	14.3	14.6	13.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Health Services	45.2	45.1	44.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Government	18.2	18.2	18.8	1.9	1.8	2.0	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local Government 4/	78.6	77.1	78.6	14.2	13.8	14.0	4.0	4.1	4.1
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full- and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 24, 25, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39. 3/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 20, 22, 23, 26, 30; Lewiston - 20, 22, 23, 26, 27. 4/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. * Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item. Source: Nonfarm wage and salary employment by place of work and earnings, and workweek of production workers in manufacturing industries are developed by the Maine Bureau of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/ This Month	LABOR FORCE 2/ Last Month	LABOR FORCE 2/ Year Ago	RESIDENT EMPLOYED This Month	RESIDENT EMPLOYED Last Month	RESIDENT EMPLOYED Year Ago	UNEMPLOYMENT Number This Month	UNEMPLOYMENT Number Last Month	UNEMPLOYMENT Number Year Ago	UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force This Month	UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force Last Month	UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force Year Ago
MAINE-STATEWIDE (000)	636.0	630.3	621.8	579.9	575.3	588.1	56.2	54.9	33.7	8.8	8.7	5.4
MAJOR LABOR MARKETS												
Bangor MSA	47,500	46,600	46,000	44,100	43,300	44,100	3,400	3,300	1,900	7.1	7.1	4.1
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	43,900	43,300	43,400	38,800	38,600	40,200	5,100	4,700	3,100	11.6	10.9	7.2
Portland MSA	132,300	131,100	132,800	124,000	123,100	128,300	8,300	8,000	4,500	6.3	6.1	3.4
Portsmouth-Dover Rochester MSA	145,600	141,000	135,800	137,600	132,200	130,600	8,000	8,800	5,200	5.5	6.2	3.8
OTHER LABOR MARKETS												
Augusta	37,120	37,500	36,330	34,450	34,630	34,660	2,670	2,880	1,670	7.2	7.7	4.6
Bath-Brunswick	30,500	30,630	30,700	28,540	28,740	29,570	1,960	1,890	1,130	6.4	6.2	3.7
Belfast	12,620	12,630	12,300	10,780	10,750	10,880	1,840	1,880	1,420	14.5	14.9	11.6
Biddeford	28,660	28,050	28,510	25,800	25,200	26,800	2,870	2,850	1,710	10.0	10.2	6.0
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset	15,410	15,600	14,600	14,450	14,470	14,000	960	1,130	600	6.2	7.2	4.1
Calais-Eastport	15,150	14,410	14,860	12,990	12,700	13,400	2,160	1,710	1,460	14.2	11.9	9.8
Caribou-Presque Isle	22,530	22,160	20,760	20,120	19,830	19,300	2,410	2,330	1,470	10.7	10.5	7.1
Central Penobscot	3,340	3,300	3,230	2,960	2,940	3,020	380	360	210	11.5	11.0	6.5
Dover-Foxcroft	7,510	7,350	7,200	6,690	6,640	6,780	820	710	420	10.9	9.7	5.8
Ellsworth	25,170	25,320	23,960	22,430	22,590	22,240	2,740	2,730	1,710	10.9	10.8	7.2
Farmington	14,090	13,970	14,000	12,890	12,850	13,330	1,200	1,120	670	8.5	8.0	4.8
Fort Kent-Allagash	5,720	5,660	5,410	5,230	5,110	5,000	490	550	410	8.6	9.7	7.5
Greenville	1,450	1,440	1,450	1,340	1,310	1,340	120	130	110	8.0	9.0	7.4
Houlton	6,690	6,690	6,330	6,210	6,230	6,020	490	450	310	7.2	6.8	4.9
Kittery-York 3/	30,290	29,300	29,630	28,730	27,640	28,700	1,560	1,670	930	5.2	5.7	3.1
Lincoln-Howland	5,790	5,670	5,550	5,120	5,080	5,170	660	600	380	11.4	10.5	6.9
Livermore Falls	5,050	5,050	4,640	4,440	4,470	4,250	610	580	400	12.0	11.5	8.6
Madawaska-Van Buren	4,100	4,110	3,800	3,620	3,560	3,450	470	550	350	11.5	13.3	9.3
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,410	4,290	4,160	3,960	3,880	3,860	440	420	300	10.0	9.7	7.1
Norway-Paris	11,740	11,680	11,780	10,110	10,120	10,880	1,630	1,560	890	13.9	13.4	7.6
Patten-Island Falls	2,580	2,540	2,460	2,270	2,250	2,250	300	280	200	11.8	11.2	8.2
Rockland	19,360	19,110	18,970	17,530	17,150	17,830	1,830	1,960	1,140	9.5	10.2	6.0
Rumford	9,390	9,380	9,570	8,340	8,320	8,940	1,050	1,060	630	11.2	11.3	6.5
Sanford	17,070	16,970	16,590	15,120	15,010	15,380	1,950	1,970	1,220	11.4	11.6	7.3
Sebago Lakes Region	13,170	13,070	12,960	12,060	12,040	12,240	1,110	1,030	710	8.4	7.9	5.5
Skowhegan	24,110	24,250	22,680	21,310	21,470	21,070	2,800	2,790	1,610	11.6	11.5	7.1
Southwest Penobscot	12,050	11,860	11,020	10,360	10,310	10,120	1,700	1,560	910	14.1	13.1	8.2
Waterville	27,260	27,250	26,200	25,030	25,060	25,020	2,230	2,190	1,190	8.2	8.0	4.5
OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)												
Connecticut	n/a	1,760.5	1,767.3	n/a	1,662.5	1,670.5	n/a	98.0	96.8	n/a	5.6	5.5
Massachusetts	3,103.0	3,076.0	3,174.2	2,796.0	2,798.0	2,991.3	307.0	278.0	182.9	9.9	9.0	5.8
New Hampshire	629.2	640.5	618.2	585.5	593.4	586.9	43.6	47.1	31.3	6.9	7.4	5.1
Rhode Island	519.6	517.2	512.5	474.0	473.7	475.3	45.5	43.6	37.2	8.8	8.4	7.3
Vermont	307.0	309.3	310.8	282.8	284.7	296.8	24.3	24.6	14.0	7.9	8.0	4.5
NEW ENGLAND STATES (000)	n/a	6,624.5	7,004.8	n/a	6,102.9	6,608.9	n/a	521.6	395.9	n/a	7.9	5.7
UNITED STATES (000)	124,070	123,585	123,442	115,151	114,990	116,308	8,919	8,595	7,134	7.2	7.0	5.8

Footnotes

1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas are by place of residence and are not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces. Data are rounded for publishing purposes. Employment and unemployment may not add to labor force due to rounding. MSA - Metropolitan Statistical Area. n/a indicates that the information was not available at the time of printing.

2/ Current figures preliminary; last month and year ago figures revised.

3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: These data are developed by the Maine Bureau of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Mid-Month Insured Unemployment

ITEM	STATEWIDE This Month	STATEWIDE Last Month	STATEWIDE Year Ago	PORTLAND MSA This Month	PORTLAND MSA Last Month	PORTLAND MSA Year Ago	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA This Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Last Month	LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA Year Ago
Number of continued-week claimants*	30,575	26,824	18,889	4,552	3,866	2,408	2,798	2,387	1,805

* Continued-week claimants are less partials for week including the 12th of the month.

1990 Census Data Now Available

New data from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing is now available. 1990 Census Data for Governmental Units is an extract from the 1990 Census Redistricting File. This early data provides the items necessary for establishing voting district boundaries.

This publication provides the following data items for all cities and towns in Maine:

- ✔ Total population
- ✔ Counts for the population by race for White, Black, and Other Races
- ✔ Total Hispanic Origin
- ✔ Total Housing Unit Count

This publication is available at $2.00 a copy from the Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research, P.O. Box 309, Augusta, ME 04332-0309 or by calling (207) 289-2271.

Additional redistricting detail is available on magnetic tape and CD-ROM. Diskettes of selected data are also available. For more information contact the Regional Affiliated Data Center nearest you. The affiliates are comprised of University and College libraries, selected public libraries, Regional Planning Commissions and Councils of Governments. A complete list of affiliates is included in the publication for your convenience.

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